

White Terror

- In 1795, shortly after Maximillien Robespierre was overthrown, there was a significant amount of change amongst the Jacobin population and the public's attitude towards them.
- Robespierre, after the Reign of Terror, became known as a "monster" and a "tyrant" as the Reign of Terror had mainly only brought destruction to the general French people.
- The White Terror refers to the months in the spring and summer of 1795 where there were episodes of violence against those who participated in the Reign of Terror.
- The primary motive behind the reaction was to have a collective vengeance on the revolutionaries
- Because the White Terror was mainly a consequence of the Reign of Terror, it is commonplace to refer to it as the "Reaction."
- The main saying throughout the White Terror was to have the "blood that cries out for vengeance".
- Though condemning the practices of arbitrary arrests, false denunciations and summary justice during the Reign of Terror, the public tended to turn a blind eye when it violated these policies against former terrorists and their families throughout the White Terror.
- Despite the developments in the French Revolution such as the overthrowing of King Louis, politics were still in the hands of wealthy property owners, jurists and merchants.
- However, in 1792 and 1793, these upper class members faced criticism by the public, as the lower classes were worried about rising product prices and the threat that overseas governments posed to the French Revolution's efforts.
- The White Terror was spread throughout the country with some regions claiming not to have been disgraced by the Reign of Terror whereas some regions believed that there had to be significant retribution made.
- Individuals that were accused as terrorists were then put on trial and executed.
- Overall how severe the reactions were the Reign of Terror were all-dependent on how each region was involved in the Revolution and on that region's specific history.
- Lists of those persecuted and existing judicial and police records indicate that a strong majority of accusations did not depend on actions from the Reign of Terror at all but rather on personal or regional grudges.